

U. S. ONE STEP NEARER WAR AS WILSON ASKS CONGRESS FOR RIGHT TO USE FORCES

This is Not a Declaration of War by Any Means But It is Intended to Give President Wilson Authority to Establish Armed Neutrality or to Prepare the United States for What May be Warlike Acts by Any Other Nation

GERMANY'S SUBMARINE WAR MAKES UNBEARABLE CONDITION

President Has Made Full and Detailed Plans for Protecting American Ships Desiring to Enter the German War Zone—Wilson Went Before Congress This Afternoon With Proposal Hinted at When He Broke Off Relations With Germany

Washington, D. C., Feb. 26.—President Wilson addressed a joint session of Congress at 1 o'clock to-day, asking Congress to empower him to use the forces of the United States to protect American rights on the high seas.

The president completed the address this morning and sent it to the public printer. At the same time, the president discussed the speech with Chairman Stone of the Senate foreign relations committee.

To ask authority to use the forces of the United States to protect American rights is not in any sense to ask for a declaration of war, nor is it an act of war. It is to prepare the United States for what may be warlike acts by any other nation. The purpose of the president was to ask authority to establish a state of armed neutrality. He has made full and detailed plans for protecting American ships desiring to enter the German war zone.

The decision to go before Congress was partly caused by the fact that Germany's campaign is keeping American ships tied up in American ports. Such conditions, the president pointed out, are unbearable.

The president pointed out that while he desires peace, there is something greater than peace, the protection of the sovereign rights of America, and that the untrammelled right of American ships to sail the seas unmolested by any foreign nation must be upheld. The arming of American merchantmen or conveying them through the war zone were two methods of protecting American commerce now being considered.

The president pointed out that the rights of other neutrals have been affected, but they have not shown a disposition to follow the course laid out by the United States. No new direct appeal will be made to them.

President Wilson was represented as confident that Congress will rise to the occasion and promptly give him the desired authority and that an extra session of Congress will not be necessary. The situation outlined in his address, he believes, is such that Congress will give the desired authority ungrudgingly. He has carefully looked up the precedents and found that on previous occasions the United States has taken the position of armed neutrality without bringing about war.

In addition to giving authority to establish a state of armed neutrality, Congress is expected to place in the president's hands authority to get additional money if it is needed. A bond issue may be authorized.

President Wilson first outlined the results of the new German submarine campaign, especially as to its effect in depriving neutral vessels in harbor, and referred to two American vessels sunk, the steamship Housatonic and the schooner Lyman M. Law, in which cases the lives of the crew were safeguarded.

Continuing, he said: "In sum, therefore, the situation we find ourselves in with regard to actual conduct of German submarine warfare against commerce and its effects upon our own ships and people is substantially the same as when I addressed you on the 3d of February except for the tying-up of our shipping because of the unwillingness of ship owners to risk their vessels at sea without insurance or adequate protection and a very serious congestion of our commerce which has resulted. We can only say, therefore, that the overt act which I have ventured to hope the German commanders would in fact avoid has not occurred."

After further summarizing the situation, which he declared was fraught with the gravest possibilities and dangers, the president said: "It is devoutly to be hoped that it will not be necessary to put armed forces anywhere into action. The American people do not desire it. Since it has unhappily proven impossible to safeguard our neutral rights by diplomatic means against unwarranted infringements they are suffering at the hands of Germany, there may be no recourse but to armed neutrality which we shall know how to maintain and for which there is abundant American precedent."

RUSSIANS RAIDED GERMAN TRENCHES NEAR JABLONITZA

Petrograd Report Says the Movements Were Successful—Berlin Report Calls Them Attacks and Says They Were Repulsed.

Petrograd, via London, Feb. 26.—Successful operations by Russian scouting detachments in the Carpathians were announced in to-day's war office statement. Two trenches near Jablonitza were penetrated and prisoners were taken. In the Caucasus a Russian surprise attack resulted in the dispersal of a Turkish patrolling party near Lake Van.

The German Version.
Berlin (by wireless), Feb. 26.—The Russians renewed their attacks yesterday in the Carpathians, in the vicinity of Tartar pass. To-day's official statement says that strong forces were employed but the attacks were without success.

An unsuccessful attack was made in Champagne yesterday by the French, it was also announced. In numerous aerial engagements in this sector, the statement adds, the enemy lost eight airplanes.

A "SOLEMN OBLIGATION."
For United States to Join Allies Against Germany.

New York, Feb. 26.—John Grier Hibben, president of Princeton university, speaking in a church here last night, criticized the United States for what he termed its lack of "international conscience" in failing to join the entente allies against Germany and declared America's entrance into the war was a "solemn obligation." He continued in part as follows:

"Why are we so brave now? Let us be frank. There is only one reason and that is because we know the great British fleet stands between us and Germany at the present time."

"I am free to confess that America, as a nation, has not risen to the appreciation of the obligation resting upon it. What have we done for Belgium? We have grown rich out of the misery of that country. We have not the first vestige of international conscience."

"I do not wish to see Germany crushed, but I do wish that over this ambition of a world empire which Germany has had for the past 40 years there should be written one word, and that word is 'failure.'"

MOVE TO END THE WAR STARTED IN ARGENTINE

Buenos Aires Newspaper Says the Republic Is Trying to Enlist Latin-American Republics in the Move.

Buenos Aires, Feb. 26.—According to La Nación, the Argentine government is endeavoring to bring about joint action by the Latin-American republics in offering mediation for ending the war.

PROMINENT BUSINESS MAN.

W. Beecher Fonda of St. Albans Died After Short Illness.

St. Albans, Feb. 26.—W. Beecher Fonda, aged 70, one of the most prominent business men of Vermont, died at 4:30 this morning after an illness of only a few days, death being due to the formation of a blood clot caused by septic infection in the brain. The funeral will be held from his late residence Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Mr. Fonda was born in Saratoga, N. Y., and spent his early life in Glens Falls, N. Y. In 1865 he went to Potsdam, N. Y., where he was engaged in the lumber and mercantile business. In 1872 he came to St. Albans and took up the line business at Swanton Junction. He also was interested in the Willard Manufacturing company, was vice-president of the Western National bank, a director of the People's Trust company, vice-president of the International Explosives company and was formerly director and vice-president of the Robin Hood Ammunition company.

He was married to Miss Annie B. Smith, daughter of the late Gov. and Mrs. J. Gregory Smith. His wife survives him, together with two sisters, Mrs. F. H. Bruce and Miss Gertrude H. Fonda, and one brother, Frank W. Fonda.

TROLLEY LINE TIED UP.

In Northern Vermont Snow Conditions Are Again Serious.

St. Albans, Feb. 26.—The St. Albans and Swanton trolley system is again buried in the snow, and no cars are moving.

Incoming passengers on the train reaching Barre at 1 o'clock this afternoon quoted railroad men in relating strange stories of deep snow and travel hardships up north. Somewhere between the border and Montreal the New England States Limited is buried in snow and the limited connection, northbound from Montpelier Junction around 3 o'clock this morning, has not reached the Canadian metropolis. Two locomotives were attached to a train made up in St. Albans this forenoon to take the place of the southbound limited and when the train reached Essex Junction passengers said it looked as if it had emerged from a snow cloud.

SMOTHERED BY AVALANCHE.

Fifteen Miners Lost Their Lives in an Idaho Mine.

Boise, Idaho, Feb. 26.—An avalanche swept down on the buildings of North Star mine, 12 miles northeast of Hailey, Idaho, early yesterday, demolishing the compressor house, warehouse and bankhouse, smothering and crushing the sleeping men in the snow and debris.

The bodies of nine miners had been recovered last night, six were missing and probably dead, and 15 were injured, some seriously. Among the injured is Thomas Jay, mine superintendent.

The Federal Mining and Smelting company, owners of the mine, who with a force of men engaged in recovering the dead, ordered all rescue crews to stop work late yesterday, because of the danger of a second slide across the canyon.

BRITISH TAKE KUT-EL-AMARA

Important Turkish Town on the Tigris Finally Seized

BONAR LAW TELLS HOUSE OF COMMONS

The British Also Make Great Advance on Western Front

London, Feb. 26.—Kut-el-Amara has been captured from the Turks by the British forces, according to a statement made in the House of Commons to-day by Bonar Law, a member of the war council.

GERMANS GIVE UP FOUR VILLAGES IN BIG RETREAT

British Are Said to Be in Position to Capture Bapaume, the Key to German Line in Northern Part of Western Front.

From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press, Feb. 26, via London, Feb. 26, 12:35 a. m.—On one portion of the British front, the war to-day became a war of movement. Under cover of fog and mist, which have been particularly heavy in the past 48 hours, the Germans carried out the greatest retreatment they have made on the western front in the last two years, and the British have swept into possession of Pys, Serre, Miraumont and Petit Miraumont, including the famous Butte de Warlencourt, which has been the scene of some of the fiercest fighting of the war and in places is deep with the bones of dead men.

The exact extent of the German retreatment is not known, but it is estimated that it approaches a depth of three miles at some points. British patrols are out in all directions, harassing the Germans and keeping in touch with their movements. Until they report it will not be possible to say just where the Germans have determined to fix their next line of resistance.

Nevertheless, it can be stated that the British now or soon will be in a position possibly to force the evacuation of Bapaume, which has been the key to the German position since the beginning of the battle of the Somme. The points which have fallen into the British hands have stood out in the history of the fighting in the front and had been most stubbornly defended. Only a week ago when the British attacked on a two-mile front east and south of Miraumont and Pys the German resistance was bitter and the high ground desired was won only after desperate hand-to-hand encounters and the taking of more than 800 German prisoners.

The British had been waiting for a clearing of the foggy weather before pressing the advance but meantime it is apparent that the German high command decided to retire without any further fighting to stronger positions prepared well to the rear. Friday night fires were observed in the German front trenches. They were only dimly visible through the thick mist of the particularly black night, but it was discovered that the flames issued from burning German dugouts. Patrols sent forward reported the evacuation of the German outposts. Similar reports came from north of the Ancre, and by nightfall yesterday the British had established themselves in the Petit Miraumont and advanced all along the line, meeting only with sniping resistance here and there.

Yesterday the British patrols pressed forward, keeping in close contact with the Germans, who had retreated a further 2,000 yards during the night. Thus the way was opened to the ground which for months had been contested.

There were bursts of stiff resistance from German obstructing parties which had been scattered in the rear of the retreating columns. Early to-day a big mine was exploded in the main street of Miraumont just before the British advance patrols entered.

It is evident now that the Germans taking advantage of the last days of the recent heavy frost and hard ground, moved a great many of their guns well to the rear, leaving others forward to keep up a show of resistance. This they had been valiantly doing for the past three or four days, firing more rounds than any German guns in recent months. The reason for this is considered as probably a desire to shoot up stores of ammunition which there was not time to remove.

The foggy, misty weather was ideal for the beginning of the German retreatment, as it completely hid the purpose of the movement from the prying eyes of the airplanes, which otherwise would have daily searched out the German positions.

Germans made prisoners Saturday and yesterday said they had been left behind to walk about and fire their rifles and make as much noise as possible. They were delighted to be relieved from their thankless task.

STEAMER LACONIA IS SUNK

Cunard Liner Carried 100 Passengers, of Whom Ten or More Were Americans—Queenstown Cable Tells of Destruction of Great Ship Which Left New York on February 18

SHIP WAS OWNED BY BRITISH COMPANY

The Laconia Was Bound for Liverpool and Had Nearly Reached Her Destination When Destroyed—Serious Complication for the United States

Queenstown, Feb. 26.—The Cunard liner Laconia of 18,099 tons, which sailed from New York Feb. 18 for Liverpool, has been sunk.

The survivors of the ship, who are said to number 270, will be landed to-night.

New York, Feb. 26.—The Laconia carried 100 passengers, including 10 or more Americans.

WILSON GOT WORD ABOUT THE LACONIA ON WAY TO CONGRESS

The Reports Gave No Details of the Sinking, But Its Grave Possibilities Added Emphasis to President's Message.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 26.—The news of the sinking of the Laconia was received here as President Wilson was on his way to Congress. Although the news was without details, its grave possibilities added emphasis to the president's message to Congress.

FREIGHTER ORLEANS REACHES FRANCE WITHOUT MISHAP

American Ship Left New York After Diplomatic Relations With Germany Were Broken Off—American Freighter Rochester Not Yet Reported.

Bordeaux, Feb. 26.—The American freighter Orleans was sighted at the entrance of the Gironde this morning, but owing to the contrary tide she is not expected to arrive at Pauillac, 30 miles northwest of Bordeaux, before 5 this afternoon.

The Orleans and the freighter Rochester were the first American vessels to leave the United States for Europe after the rupture of diplomatic relations. Both ships sailed from New York Feb. 10 for Bordeaux. The Rochester has not yet been reported.

AMERICAN LINE SHIPS WILL SAIL ARMED IF GIVEN GUNS

They Will Also Go Out Unarmed If the United States Government Offers Warships as Convoys.

New York, Feb. 26.—If the president is authorized by Congress to arm ships the American line steamships tied up here will resume their sailings as soon as guns can be provided, the officials of the company stated. The ships will sail unarmed, it was stated also, if they are convoyed by American warships.

U-BOAT STRANDED.

And Dutch Government Will Intern the Crew.

London, Feb. 26.—A dispatch to Reuters' Telegram company from Flushing says the German submarine U-boat 30, which stranded on the Dutch island of Walcheren, in the North sea, last week, will be dismantled and interned at Flushing. The crew will be interned.

FIRE LOSS OVER \$1,000,000.

About Half Million Bushels of Grain Burned at Louisville.

Louisville, Ky., Feb. 26.—Damage aggregating more than \$1,000,000 was caused by a fire which last night destroyed the elevators here of the Kentucky Public Elevator company and which destroyed or damaged 75 freight cars standing on storage tracks belonging to the Illinois Central railroad.

Approximately 500,000 bushels of wheat, corn, rye and oats stored in the elevators were destroyed. Of the railroad cars destroyed, a few were empty, while the remainder were loaded with merchandise and lumber.

"BANNACHS NIGHT" DULY OBSERVED

Glenugie Club and Ladies Made Merry at Feast and Dance Saturday Evening.

Glenugians representing nearly the full strength of the club, with enough guests to round out a hundred, paid homage to an old-time Scottish festival in Clan Gordon hall Saturday evening, when bannachs night was observed with feasting and dancing. Renewed fealty to the traditions of the club's home district on the banks of the Ugie was shown by the presence of several sons of Glenugie who have recently associated themselves with the club. So far as the careful canvass of the committee revealed, none of the club members failed to obey the stern injunction in the call to "dinna forget to bring the housekeeper and kitchen woman wea yee."

Thus it followed that men and women alike made merry over the feast of bannachs, dub, and treacle. Those edibles were spread over several tables, which offered a continuous buffet while the dance was on. Miss Lizzie Stephens was at the piano, and many of the favorite Scotch reels figured prominently in the dance order. Alex. Cowie and James Forrest acted efficiently as floor managers, and through a happy combination of good music and capable management, "bannachs" night passed off pleasantly.

The committee in charge of the festival consisted of Charles Keith, the club president, Alex. Cowie, the treasurer, James Chubb, the secretary, Samuel Henderson, James Davidson, James Forrest, and William Still.

WIDOW DISSATISFIED.

Goes to Supreme Court on Appeal from Industrial Accident Board.

An appeal from the decision of the industrial accident board to supreme court in the case of Mrs. Vina Halsall, apt., of Barre, vs. Marr & Gordon and the Royal Indemnity Co., carrier, was filed to-day with County Clerk L. C. Moody, it being one of the very few cases appealed from the board since its creation two years ago.

John Richard Halsall died at Barre, Jan. 5, 1916, from injuries said to have been received Sept. 15, 1915, being at that time employed as a lumber by the Marr & Gordon company. According to evidence submitted at a hearing by the board, Halsall's death was due to traumatic pleurisy which developed from a blow in the chest according to the opinion of a majority of the board.

All the board agreed, however, that the case was barren of evidence to show when or where such injury was received, the plaintiff alleging that Halsall received the blow from a jack while working at the Marr & Gordon plant. The plaintiff endeavored to produce evidence to the effect, namely, declarations made by the deceased before his demise; but the board refused to consider the evidence on objections and exceptions by the defendants, and as a result refused to allow the widow compensation.

The case will probably be argued at the term of supreme court.

REV. P. D. MOODY RESIGNS.

St. Johnsbury Clergyman Going to New York City.

St. Johnsbury, Feb. 26.—Rev. Paul Dwight Moody, pastor of the South Congregational church, read his resignation yesterday to take effect May 1. He resigns to accept a call as an associate of Dr. Henry S. Coffin of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian church, New York City. Mr. Moody has been married for five years. He is also chaplain of the 1st Vermont infantry, National Guard.

VERMONT TEAMS ON SCHEDULE.

University of Vermont and Middlebury to Play Williams at Football.

Williamstown, Mass., Feb. 26.—Games with Vermont and Middlebury are included in the Williams college football schedule, which was made public to-day. Both games are to be played here, the one with Vermont on Oct. 20 and with Middlebury Nov. 10.

KILLED BY HIS OWN GUN.

Edwin Gould, Jr., Was Clubbing Raccoon with the Weapon.

Brunswick, Ga., Feb. 26.—Edwin Gould, Jr., the 23-year-old son of the New York capitalist, was killed early yesterday by the accidental discharge of his shotgun while hunting raccoons near Jekyll island with Noyes Reynolds of New York. The young hunter had cornered a raccoon and was clubbing it with the butt of his gun when the hammer caught and the weapon was discharged into his groin. Death is said to have been almost instantaneous. Reynolds rowed two miles to Jekyll island in a canoe for aid and the body was brought back.

Edwin Gould, who was spending the winter on Jekyll island with his son, was at St. Augustine when he heard of the tragedy. He directed that the body be taken to New York yesterday afternoon in a private car attached to a regular train leaving here at 2:35 o'clock. He met the train at Savannah.

FOUR KILLED IN WRECK.

And Three Injured Near Bristol, Penn., On Sunday.

Philadelphia, Feb. 26.—Four persons were killed and three injured, two seriously, in a wreck on the New York division of the Pennsylvania railroad near Bristol yesterday. All the victims except J. E. King, an engineer, were attendants in charge of two cars of thoroughbred horses being shipped from Center Hall and Williamsport, Pa. Their names have not been learned. The wreckage caught fire and a score of freight and express cars were destroyed. All four trucks were blocked for 12 hours. Meanwhile passenger trains between Philadelphia and New York were detoured over other routes.

The cars of the west-bound freight train were derailed and were strewn along the adjoining tracks. An approaching east-bound train consisting entirely of express cars, crashed into the wreckage, demolishing a number of freight cars, some of which were loaded with rolls of paper. The paper was scattered along the tracks and caught fire, communicating to the overturned cars.

TWO BULLETS ENTERED ARM

Mrs. Almina Bennett Wilfore Bled Considerably and Was Hysterical

POLICE THINK THE WOMAN SHOT HERSELF

Farewell Note to "Luigi" Is Said to Be in Hands of Authorities

With two bullet holes in her left arm and another bullet buried in the living room of her apartment at the east end of Addison place, Mrs. Almina Bennett Wilfore left in an ambulance for the city hospital yesterday afternoon without divulging to the police, who found her in a hysterical condition on a couch, just how the shooting came about. This forenoon, statements ascribed to the woman and jotted down in the chief's notebook tended to confirm a suspicion which the officers could not brush aside when a search of the apartments revealed a note in which Almina, after proclaiming her love for a man whose first name is Luigi, wrote that she was "doing it" for his sake and asked to be forgiven and forgotten. But the doctors say that Almina will recover.

At police headquarters is a 32-calibre revolver which the police believe was used sometime around 4 o'clock. Three cartridges in a chamber filled with empty and unexploded missiles have been fired. Dr. J. A. Wark, the city physician, called the police after Mrs. Wilfore, with blood dripping down her sleeve, had walked across the street to the home of a neighbor and called him. People in Addison place, hearing the revolver reports, had begun to gather about the big tenement which hides itself under seminary hill, when the woman calmly stepped from the porch of her own apartments and walked to those of a neighbor. They were there when Dr. Wark arrived and found Mrs. Wilfore lying on the couch. The physician immediately notified police headquarters and Chief Sinclair and Officer David Henderson were soon on the premises.

Almina talked volubly in French and Italian but nobody seemed to understand what she was saying. Dr. Wark had banded two bullet wounds between the woman's elbow and shoulder when the officers got there and a search instituted by the latter showed where another bullet had entered the wall. Stewards about the floor near the couch where the woman lay were three pieces of note paper which the police took with them when the left. Efforts to pry information from the victim of the shooting were futile and just before the police loaded her into the Perry & Noonan ambulance she instructed neighbors and others gathered there in the house to disown all knowledge of the affair.

Examination of the messages left by the woman did much to convince the police that the shooting should not be stamped up to an interloper. Stationary marked in the upper left-hand corner with the initial "A" was used in jotting down a letter to "Luigi," for whom the signer vowed undying affection. Evidently the notes were written after the shooting and in a shaky hand. One of them was unfinished and the contents of another are not legible.

The woman's husband was interviewed by the police last night. He could add little to the story of her information. He said she left home at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, going to Brooklyn street, where he kept a horse in a barn leased by Napoleon Paquin. He said his wife had been absent from home during a part of the day. On his way back to Addison place after 5 o'clock someone told him of the shooting and later he got in touch with the police, who had exerted themselves to locate him.

It is said that Mrs. Wilfore this morning confessed to making an attempt to end her life. The statement credited to her to-day is said to have been made voluntarily. Wilfore is quoted as saying that someone else must have done the shooting, as his wife's conduct had convinced him that she lacked the necessary "courage." The wounds are not of a serious nature and unless entirely unlooked for complications develop, Mrs. Wilfore will probably be out of the hospital within a week or 10 days.

ILL BUT SHORT TIME.

Mrs. Mehtable L. Haviland, Native of Danville, Died in Barre.

Mrs. Mehtable L. Haviland, wife of the late W. H. Haviland, passed away at her home, 20 Highland avenue, Sunday night at 9:15 o'clock. Mrs. Haviland was stricken suddenly ill at 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon, and during the day yesterday her condition failed steadily. Death was due to a ruptured appendix, which developed peritonitis. She is survived by her daughter, Miss Ida R. Haviland, with whom she resided, and her brother, N. H. Lane of Newton Highlands, Mass.

Mrs. Haviland was born Mehtable Lane, March 5, 1851. West Danville was her native village and there she was married Aug. 21, 1861, to William H. Haviland. The latter's death occurred Feb. 23, 1916, and his funeral took place just a year before Mrs. Haviland's demise. Mrs. Haviland came to Barre with her husband in 1885 and, therefore, had resided here continuously for 32 years. Her unexpected passing has brought sorrow to many friends formed during her residence in this city. She was an adherent of the Congregational church.

Funeral services will be held at the house Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. J. W. Barnett, pastor of the Barre Congregational church, will be the officiating clergyman, and the body will be placed in the receiving vault at Elmwood, there to await interment in the family lot in the spring. Friends are requested to omit flowers.